

## **1. Circumstances leading to the forming of our International Strategy**

Since its establishment in 1907, Tohoku University has always emphasized the three principles of “Research First”, “Open Doors” and “Practice-Orientated Research and Education”.

Tohoku University is noted for its acceptance of international students in its earliest days, and the university has ever since actively promoted international research exchanges, and has a strong international presence due to its outstanding research capabilities. In addition, the university has been chosen to participate in the government’s series of funding projects which aim to enhance the international competitiveness of higher education in Japan, and these have in turn formed the foundation for promoting internationalization efforts unique to Tohoku University. Furthermore, the university has established the Tohoku University International Advisory Board (hereinafter referred to as the International Advisory Board), and has made efforts to formulate international strategies.

In 2016, the International Strategy Proposal Working Group was organized under the Director of the Office for International Initiatives. In April 2018, the group produced *International Cooperation and the Internationalization of Education at Tohoku University: Recommendations for Formulating Future International Strategies*, in which it was pointed out that an international strategy for Tohoku University should be produced in good time.

In July 2018, the International Strategy Office was established as an organization directly under the President, and based on the above developments, our *Tohoku University’s International Strategy: Collaborate. Innovate. Activate* (hereinafter the *International Strategy*) was produced.